

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

April 4, 2006

The West Basin Municipal Water District and the Central Basin Municipal Water District are separate public agencies within the County of Los Angeles, each formed in the late 1940s. The agencies are governed by five-member Boards elected by the voters.

The agencies were created to obtain a supplemental water supply to meet rising demands. They receive their imported water supplies from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Since 1992, the Boards have operated together under a Joint Powers Agreement, binding the two agencies together for the administration of shared resources and operations including joint headquarters and staff.

West Basin recently completed a study of the feasibility, impacts, and costs of terminating its shared resource agreement with Central Basin.

West Basin reports the need for this study was driven by the idea that the current joint resource arrangement may no longer be of benefit to West Basin.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

BURKE \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

The study makes no recommendation regarding the decision to terminate sharing of resources with Central Basin but limits its discussion to an enumeration of costs and other issues. The study, only in passing, makes reference to any rational for separation. The study estimates one-time termination costs to West Basin to be approximately \$1.4 million with additional annual costs of \$918,000.

The West Basin Board of Directors has taken action to terminate their joint management agreements with Central Basin.

The Central Basin opposes the effort by West Basin to terminate their shared resources agreement but has no recourse under the current agreement.

No public dialogue has occurred with member agencies nor has the public been given an opportunity to comment on this action. There appears to be no analysis that identifies any significant benefits that would justify the action taken by West Basin's Board.

Lack of public debate and transparency in which this decision was reached undermine public trust values.

The increased financial burden of this action to West Basin does not seem to equate to measurable benefits to its customers. The rush to change the manner in which the districts have operated over these many years appears to be a political response to difference between the two agencies.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD:

1. Oppose the action taken by the West Basin Municipal Water District to terminate its shared resources agreement with the Central Basin Municipal Water District.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a five-signature letter to the West Basin Board conveying such action.

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